

This bill represents nothing more than a big business trying to protect it's monopoly. With the recently approved legislation, many radio stations in one city are owned by two or three large corporations, already stifling competition and making all of the stations conform to one corporate image and one group information source. In other words, whether you listen to Sports Talk, Country or Rock you'll hear the same news and same traffic reports. With services such as XM radio, I am able to listen to many different sources - granted all of them represent large corporations - Time Warner with CNN, FOX news or MSNBC, but it does provide different opinions and with services such as BBC I can get information on how the rest of the world sees America. I have my XM on in my office and during the 1-1/2 hours I spend in the car commuting here in Houston. There is one station locally that does traffic on a consistent basis of every 6 minutes, but it is only 30 seconds to a minute long and often to hear about all of the roads on my route I would have to listen for 15 minutes. With XM's local traffic station I can listen for 3 to 4 minutes and hear about all of the roads in the city. It is a level of service that no local station could provide because they need commercials to run to make money.

This bill to limit local news is nothing more than an attempt to protect the large radio and TV concerns (which the FCC has allowed to form). Limiting XM is like going back 30 years and preventing HBO from running movies since when the local TV stations run them they need commercials.

I find the XM traffic to be a useful service and I pay for that service. Limiting their ability to provide the information and service is an attack on First Amendment and smacks of an attempt by the government to regulate and control information. We send our brave armed forces around the world to free others from governments that control their lives so. I know we are only talking about traffic and weather, but every thing begins small. How long before they begin to limit music, or other news?

Please don't allow the proposed legislation to go through. I find their service to be valuable and if the local stations don't like it and feel threatend then they need to improve themselves to compete instead of using the government to limit their competition.